

FLAG MOUNTING DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is based on Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/404,280, filed on August 19, 2002.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 The invention relates generally to a flag support and mounting device, and more specifically, to a device for preventing a flag from wrapping and becoming entangled around a flagpole. The device allows for free rotation about the flagpole.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

15 It is well known that flags, when blown by variable gusty winds, will occasionally wrap themselves around the flagpole to which they are mounted. Thus entangled, the flag cannot be unfurled by the next breeze and is thus rendered relatively useless. This problem is particularly acute with flagpoles that extend at an 20 angle with the vertical.

 The use of flag unfurlers is known in the prior art. More specifically, flag unfurlers heretofore devised and utilized for the purpose of maintaining a flag in an untangled state, are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations. This is notwithstanding the myriad of designs 25 encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

 U.S. Patent No. 5,279,250 to Palermo, Jr. et al. discloses an automatic flag unfurler.

30 U.S. Patent No. 4,452,167 issued to Burroughs teaches of a device for preventing a flag from wrapping around a flagpole.

U.S. Patent Nos. 2,368,783 to Schillinger, 2,799,240 to Andrews, 1,306,915 to Klamroth, 3,706,297 to Voorhees, and 5,809,930 issued to Brooks, all discuss means and devices to prevent fowling of the flags about the pole and also to allow the flags to freely rotate about the flagpole.

5 Therefore, it can be appreciated that there exists a continuing need for new and improved flagpole rotation device that can be used for allowing a flag to freely rotate around a flagpole following the wind direction. In this regard, the present invention substantially fulfills this need.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, in view of the above, it is an object of the present invention to provide a device that will minimize the possibility of a flag becoming entangled with a flagpole while at the same time maintaining a natural appearance of the flag.

15 The present invention provides for a mounting device comprising of a rotator and a stabilizer to be rotationally mounted to a flagpole with the rotator having a portion for holding the flag.

An embodiment of the invention utilizes a rod passing through a sleeve in the flag, and then mounting the device to the sleeve/rod in such a manner that the flag
20 will fly freely yet not become furled.

Another embodiment of the invention has the rotator having means to attach clips to the rod/flag sleeve whereby the flag will not be subject to unnecessary sagging.

Another embodiment of the invention provides for the rotator to have friction-fitting attachment means for fastening the flag directly to the rotator.
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Another object of the invention is to incorporate plastic strips and/or plastic segments to the flag for the purposes of adding weight which functions in straightening the flag and also preventing furling.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a front elevation view of a flag mounted on a flagpole in accordance with the present invention.

5 FIG. 2 is an elevation view of the device of the present including a rotator and stabilizer.

FIG. 3 is a top view of the rotator of FIG. 2..

FIG. 4 is a front elevation view of a flag having a hollow sleeve for mounting on a rod with a plurality of clips maintaining the flag in a non-sagging posterior.

10 FIG. 5 is a top view of the invention as disclosed in FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is a front elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the rotator and stabilizer device.

FIG. 7 is a top view of a rotator of an embodiment of the present invention wherein the flag is fastened by a friction-fit to a slit in the rotator.

15 FIG. 8 is an elevated front view of a sleeveless flag mounted to the rotator by brackets.

FIG. 9 is a top view along line A—A of the bracket of FIG. 8.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular, to FIGS. 1-3 thereof, a new and improved flagpole mounting device, embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention. Specifically the invention includes a flag mounting device 25 generally designated by the reference number 10, and will be described herein.

It is to be noted in Figs. 1-3 that to properly maintain a flag 14 on a flagpole 20 requires a pair of the devices 10. Each device 10 comprises several components that collectively work to provide a new and improved flagpole rotation, wherein a flag 14 is free to rotate around a flagpole 20 following the wind direction without unwanted furling. In its broadest context, each device 10 may be comprised of a rotator 11, an upper stabilizer 12 and a lower stabilizer 13. The stabilizers 12 and 13 are

removably connected to the flagpole **20** and serve to support and provide a seat for the rotator **11**. The flagpole **20** is normally round, but could be of other shapes that could require manufacturing changes, but within the scope and principles of the invention. The flagpole **20** is normally made of aluminum, wood or fiberglass,

5 however the material of the flagpole **20** is not an important variable for the operation of the present invention.

The rotator **11** is capable of being rotated freely through 360° and has means for connecting the flag **14** to the flagpole **20**. An extended portion **15** of the rotator **11** has a rod opening **16** defined therein for receiving a rod **17**. For flags having a built-
10 in sleeve **18** (see FIG. 4) the rod **17** extends through the sleeve **18**, wherein it is attached to the flag **14** to provide strength as well as to assist the flag **14** to maintain a natural and attractive display appearance. The rotator **11** includes an aperture **19**, generally in the center of it, for the passage of the flagpole **20** and semi-circular flanges, a first flange **22** that is part of the first stabilizer **12**, and a second flange **23**,
15 which extends from the second stabilizer **13**. The flanges **22** and **23** are adapted to isolate the rotator **11** from contact with the flagpole **20**, whereby the rotator **11** rotates freely about the flanges **22** and **23**. Both stabilizers **12** and **13** may include screws **26** that can be hand tightened to secure and maintain their position on the flagpole **20**. The lower stabilizer **13** also may include a countersunk rotation resistance screw
20 **27** that is provided for controlling the degree and speed of rotation.

The extended portion **15** of the rotator **11** serves as a point of contact to the rod **17**, which can be either fixed or adjustable. The rod **17** inherently provides a measure of weight that helps keep the flag flying in proper fashion. The rod **17** may be adjustable for small flags and short flagpoles. The fixed length rod would be
25 preferred for larger flags because of the necessary knowledge of what stresses would be incurred for various size flags. Rods **17** can be steel, aluminum, wood, or other materials conducive to the purpose. FIG. 1 shows the use of two rotation devices **10** but it is appreciated that additional units can be used, more preferably in the center, in the case of a very large flag. The rod **17** not only supports the flag **14**,
30 but maintains its path of rotation about the pole without deflection.

The flag **14** may have additional securing means such as that shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, wherein a plurality of clips **21** are illustrated. These clips **21** provide a measure of control as well as to prevent the flag **14** from sagging. It is to be appreciated that the rotators **11** may have a plurality of rod openings **16** wherein a plurality of flags may be supported and flown. Also, the rotator **11** could be affixed with friction free casters in lieu of the invention presented above, but the increased cost would be substantial.

FIG. 6 describes an alternative embodiment, whereby the extended portion **15** of the rotator **11** includes a bolt **28** attached therein. The bolt **28** may accommodate flags that do not have a sleeve **18** but which could accommodate a rod **17** and be used in conjunction with hooks, loops and other means for fastening the flag **14**. Also shown in FIG. 6, are a pair of friction locks **29** that may firmly affix the stabilizers **12** and **13** to recesses **30** that are defined in the flagpole **20**.

An embodiment depicted in FIG. 7, attaches a flag **14** by friction fitting within a slit **35** and securing with a clamp **31**. This would be especially advantageous for affixing flags that neither have holes for attaching hooks or loops to aid in their attachment to the flagpole, nor have a sleeve **18** in which a rod **17** can run through.

In FIGS. 8 and 9, an embodiment is shown for affixing a flag **14** that has a rod **17** passing through holes in the flag **14** and a one-piece rotator **32** without a rod opening **16** in the extended portion **15**. In this embodiment, a plurality of snaps **33** are used to attach the flag **14** to the extended portion **15**, by embracing the rod **17** and firmly holding it in place. The plurality of snaps **33** each have a pair of tightening members **34** to hold the snaps **33** in position. FIG. 9 is a top view of the one-piece rotator **32** as shown along line A—A.

Shown in FIG. 1 are plastic strips, a continuous strip **24** and segmented pieces **25**. These strips **24** and **25** not only add weight that helps avoid furling, but they also keep the flag in a proper flying position.

Since numerous modification and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modification and equivalents may

be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.